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[78]

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15, MORRISON HILL ROAD.

MEETING OF LEGISLATIVE AND EXECUTIVE COUNCILS.—THE RACECOURSE DISASTER.—GOVERNMENT'S SYMPATHY.

A joint meeting of the Executive and Legislative Councils was held yesterday afternoon at the Council Chamber.

The following were present:—
HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR, SIR FRANCIS HENRY MAY, K.C.M.G.
HIS EXCELLENCY MAJOR-GENERAL F. VENTRIS (General Officer Commanding Troops in China).

Hon. Mr. CLAUD SEVERN, C.M.G. (Colonial Secretary).
Hon. Sir PAUL CHATER, C.M.G.
Hon. Mr. E. H. SHARPE, K.C.
Hon. Mr. J. H. KEMP (Attorney-General).

Hon. Mr. A. M. THOMSON (Colonial Treasurer).
Hon. Mr. E. R. HALLIFAX (Secretary for Chinese Affairs).

Hon. Mr. W. CHATHAM, C.M.G. (Director of Public Works).
Hon. Mr. M. L. MESSER (Captain Superintendent of Police).

Hon. Mr. H. E. POLLOCK, K.C.
Hon. Mr. E. SHILLIM.
Hon. Mr. LAU CHU PAI.
Hon. Mr. P. H. HOLYOAK.
Hon. Mr. HO FOOK.

Mr. A. G. M. FLETCHER (Clerk of Councils).

HIS EXCELLENCY—I have asked you to meet together to-day in order to pass the following resolution:—

"The Executive and Legislative Councils of Hongkong desire to record their heartfelt sympathy with the relatives and friends of all those who perished, or suffered injury, in the catastrophe occasioned by the collapse and burning of the matcheds at the Happy Valley on the 26th instant."

I suggest that we can best signify our assent by standing in silence.

The members then stood.

THE LATE SIR HENRY BLAKE.

HIS EXCELLENCY—I wish, also, with your permission, to take this opportunity of moving a resolution of condolence and sympathy with the widow and family of the late Sir Henry Blake, K.C.M.G., one time Governor of this Colony. The services he rendered to the Colony are comparatively recent and I will not refer to them particularly, but I would like to say that I know the late Sir Henry's name is held in grateful remembrance by the Chinese, for the close co-operation he succeeded in establishing between the Government, European, and Chinese communities. I propose the following resolution:—

"That the members of the Legislative and Executive Councils of Hongkong desire to record their deep sympathy with the widow and family of the late Sir Henry Blake, formerly Governor of Hongkong."

The Hon. Mr. LAU CHU PAI seconded, and the resolution was passed in silence.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

Sir Paul Chater, C.M.G., and Mr. E. H. Sharpe, the members of the Executive Council, then left the Council Chamber, and a meeting of the Legislative Council was held.

FINANCE.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY, by command of H. E. the Governor, laid upon the table the proceedings of the Finance Committee, No. 1, and moved that they be adopted.

The COLONIAL TREASURER seconded, and this was agreed to.

CORONER'S ABOLITION ORDINANCE, 1938.
The ATTORNEY-GENERAL moved the first reading of a Bill intitled "An Ordinance to amend the Coroner's Abolition Ordinance, 1938."

The COLONIAL SECRETARY seconded, and the Bill was read a first time.

The "objects and reasons" state:—
The object of this Bill is to amend the Coroner's Abolition Ordinance, 1938, so as to enable juries for the purposes of that Ordinance to be drawn from the Special Jurors' List in exceptional cases.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL—I must, apologise to hon. members for the fact that a copy of the Bill has only just been laid before them, but I hope I shall be excused in view of the urgency of the matter.

The reason for the introduction of the Bill is, of course, the sad catastrophe which happened on Tuesday afternoon. The Bill is rendered necessary by certain provisions of the existing law relating to coroners' enquiries. Under the existing law a jury at a death enquiry must be drawn from the Common Jurors' List, and it seems clearly desirable that in the enquiry that the magistrate proposes to hold in this case he should be assisted by as strong a jury as possible. This Bill, therefore, gives the magistrate power in special cases to requisition a special jury for the purposes of the death enquiry.

I move the suspension of Standing Orders all its stages, for it is clearly desirable that the enquiry shall be held as early as possible.

(Continued at foot of next Column.)

CORRESPONDENCE. THE RACECOURSE CATASTROPHE.

[TO THE EDITOR OF THE "HONGKONG DAILY PRESS"]

SIR,—The Chinese community are profoundly touched by the sympathetic resolution passed this afternoon by the Executive and Legislative Councils in reference to the dreadful losses suffered by the Colony. The appalling calamity that has befallen us has cast a gloom over the entire community who have suffered in common in a catastrophe that has no parallel in horror and frightfulness in the history of the Colony.

On behalf of the Chinese community, we desire publicly to tender our grateful thanks to the members of the Army, Navy and Police (both Regular and Reserve), and civilians, who, regardless of personal danger, rescued so many people from a horrible death. To the Japanese, Portuguese, Indian and other communities, whose losses have been equally great in proportion, we extend our heartfelt sympathy and sincere condolence.—We are, sir, Yours faithfully,

LAU CHU PAI.
HO FOOK

[TO THE EDITOR OF THE "HONGKONG DAILY PRESS"]

SIR,—In your leader of to-day you say it is stated that the matcheds were not full at the time of collapse.

I have it from reliable authorities, people who were standing outside the matcheds when they collapsed, that it was a match opposite the Golf Club which fell first, and that it was packed. The way in which the matcheds were built, aided by the general stampede, contributed naturally to the entire collapse, and, as cooking was allowed to be carried on in the bottom of the sheds, despite the high inflammability of the materials of which they were constructed, what could be more natural than the fire, which caused so many deaths? The official inquiry, which will surely take place, will rightly apportion the blame.

There are, however, things that baffle explanation at present. The poles supporting the sheds opposite the Golf Club were not allowed to be inserted into the ground; this, I presume, is to obviate the possibility of spoiling it.

The Building Authority ought to have foreseen that unless the supporting poles were inserted in the ground there was every risk of a disaster, as hundreds of people would be inside the sheds.

Human life is surely more valuable than all the golf grounds in the world! As regards the absence of fire extinguishing appliances, you have said enough. The callousness of some of the European community of Hongkong is shown by the remark made by many: "Well, this is nothing. Worse things are happening on the Western front."—Yours, etc.,

TAN YAU SHING.

MISSIONS TO SEAMEN.

[TO THE EDITOR OF THE "HONGKONG DAILY PRESS"]

SIR,—We beg to acknowledge with many thanks the receipt of \$1,400 and \$10, being the collection taken at the special service held at St. John's Cathedral on Sunday, January 6th, on behalf of the work of the Missions to Seamen among Minesweepers at home. A total sum of \$214 2s. 1d. has been transmitted home. On behalf of the Home Committee we desire to express our thanks for the generous support given in Hongkong towards a work at home which is very highly appreciated by men of the Mercantile Marine, H.M. Navy, our Allies, and many neutrals.—Yours faithfully,

S. H. DODWELL
(Hon. Treas.)
W. T. FEATHERSTONE
(Secretary).

Seamen's Institute, Hongkong.
February 28th, 1918.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY seconded, and this was agreed to.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL then moved the second reading of the Bill.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY seconded, and the Bill was read a second time.

Council then went into Committee to consider the Bill clause by clause.

Hon. Mr. P. H. HOLYOAK—I take it that this amendment to the Ordinance will not, in any sense, prevent the fullest enquiry into the circumstances which have led to this unfortunate catastrophe? Otherwise I shall move for full powers to form a commission of enquiry.

HIS EXCELLENCY—The sole object of the legislation just being passed is to facilitate the holding of an enquiry which, I hope, will satisfy the entire community.

The Bill passed through Committee without amendment, and on Council resuming.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL moved that the Bill be read a third time.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY seconded, and the Bill was then read a third time, and passed.

Council then adjourned.

THE RACECOURSE CATASTROPHE.

THE POLICE REPORT.

The following is the report furnished by the Police of the catastrophe which took place on Tuesday afternoon on the Racecourse at Happy Valley.—Between 2.15 and 3 p.m. on the 26th of February, just as the fifth race was about to start, the south-west portion of the matcheds and those nearing the gate of the Racecourse, swayed and fell down. About three or four minutes afterwards the eastern portion of the sheds fell down. Some time after a fire broke out in the kitchen department of the sheds.

Almost immediately military and naval members and civilians rendered every assistance in the rescue of the people. Forty-one persons were removed to the Government Civil Hospital, eleven to the Tung Wah Hospital, and several to the Naval Hospital, with the consent of Surgeon-General Dreaper. There were several casualties. First aid was rendered by Mrs. N. J. Stabb, Mrs. R. M. Dyer and some other ladies, unknown. Dr. McKenny was also present in connection with the rescue work. Lieut. Ritchie, of the United States Army Staff; the manager of the local Bank Line of steamers, Mr. Harvey, Mr. Adams, the manager of the Royal Naval Canteen, the Hongkong and Shanghai Barking Staff, and a number of military men gave able assistance.

The total deaths are 59.

Removed to Hospital, 52.

Reported missing, 34.

Further inquiries are still being made.

In connection with the outbreak of fire, between 9 a.m. on Wednesday and 6 p.m.

75 Chinese and six Indians have been reported missing. Up to 9 o'clock yesterday morning 107 were reported missing.

Of these, eight subsequently turned up.

All the jewellery, keys, etc., found by the Police at the Racecourse on the 26th of February have been washed and cleaned and may be claimed at the Detective Office, Central Police Station, at 11 a.m. to-day, and on the following days.

The body of the late Mr. Aureliano G. Jorge, the Macao solicitor, was taken to Macao, yesterday afternoon, for interment there. A service was held in the Roman Catholic Cathedral, where the body had been resting.

SPORT.

BILLIARDS.

OPEN CHAMPIONSHIP OF THE COLONY.

The following are the fixtures for the second round of the Open Billiard Championship of the Colony, held under the auspices of the Victoria Recreation Club:—

J. S. Jennings v. Pokie P. Wong—Yesterday.

Tang Po Man v. E. Guimaraes—To-day.

C. W. Hart v. A. G. Pile—To-morrow.

Sgt. S. H. Barker, R.G.A. v. G. J. R. Lord, R.G.A.—Monday.

P. Yvanovich v. W. R. Neighbour—Tuesday.

C. Botting v. S. Gray—Wednesday.

Winner of L/C R. H. Ellarby, R.A.M.C., and A. J. Omand match v. R. W. Bearn—Thursday.

Sgt. A. H. Ives, R.G.A. v. Wong Po Hong—Friday.

CRICKET.

HONGKONG C.C. v. 25th MIDDLESEX REGT.

In this match, to be played on the Club ground, to-morrow at 2.15 p.m. sharp, the following will represent Hongkong C.C.:—T. E. Pearce (Capt.), D. E. Donnelly, Capt. E. H. Gray, M. M. Maas, L. D. McNeill, H. F. Muriel, Lt. H. E. Murray, F. J. de Rome, F. Sutton, E. R. Thomas and R. P. Thurstield.

ASSOCIATION FOOTBALL.

HONGKONG DEFENCE CORPS v. R.G.A.

In their United Services League match with the R.G.A. on Saturday, at 4.30 p.m. on the Club Ground, the Hongkong Defence Corps will be represented by:—G. Rodger, Irvine and Cave, Halsdon, Stewart and McGubbin, Bailton, Passer, Stalker, McFavish and J. Rodger.

Reserves: Morrison and Wood.

OXFORD LOCAL EXAMINATIONS. LOCAL SUCCESSSES.

The names of the preliminary candidates who obtained honours locally in the July examination were as follow:—

SECOND CLASS, SECOND SECTION.

W. J. Howard, Diocesan Boys' School.

THIRD CLASS.

Chu Iaz Ching, St. Joseph's English College.

G. Ford, Diocesan Boys' School.

Yeung Shiu Hong, St. Stephen's College.

The Pass List included the following local names:—

C. V. H. Anger, St. Joseph's English College.

C. A. Braga, St. Joseph's English College.

L. Chan, St. Joseph's English College.

Chau Kwam Nin, St. Stephen's College.

Chu Iaz Wah, St. Joseph's English College.

L. H. d'Almada e Castro, St. Joseph's English College.

E. M. Franco, St. Joseph's English College.

A. J. Kent, Diocesan Boys' School.

H. W. Knight, Diocesan Boys' School.

Lee Po Kee, Macao English College.

J. Litton, Diocesan Boys' School.

Ma Hin Lee, St. Stephen's College.

Ng A. Yu Kim, St. Joseph's English College.

F. V. Vieira-Ribeiro, St. Joseph's English College.

J. F. Vieira-Ribeiro, St. Joseph's English College.

E. M. Cornell, Diocesan Girls' School, Kowloon.

M. Gittins, Diocesan Girls' School, Kowloon.

F. Hamilton, French Convent.

L. H. Haynes, French Convent.

M. McBean, Belilios Public School.

A. C. dos Remedios, Diocesan Girls' School, Kowloon.

(Over-age List.)

J. G. Anderson, Diocesan Boys' School.

M. Barwald, St. Joseph's English College.

A. E. Castro, St. Joseph's English College.

Chau Hin, Diocesan Boys' School.

Cheong Wai Lai, St. Joseph's English College.

Chow Fat Cheong, St. Joseph's English College.

Chow Fung To, St. Joseph's English College.

Chiu Bye Pik, Diocesan Boys' School.

Chiu Yik Yan, Diocesan Boys' School.

E. C. A. Danenberg, St. Joseph's English College.

E. C. Fincher, Diocesan Boys' School.

A. M. Gomes, St. Joseph's English College.

V. Xavier, St. Joseph's English College.

Ho Man Kai, St. Joseph's English College.

Kwok On, Diocesan Boys' School.

Leung Kai Cho, Diocesan Boys' School.

Leung Tin Young, St. Joseph's English College.

Ma Shiu Cheung, Diocesan Boys' School.

Ong Ching Hai, St. Joseph's English College.

Ong Ching Kay, St. Joseph's English College.

Paw Charles Sing, St. Joseph's English College.

J. Shea, Diocesan Boys' School.

M. Silva, St. Joseph's English College.

Sim Ping He, Diocesan Boys' School.

The Frank Wing Kwan, St. Joseph's English College.

Wong Chow Boi, St. Joseph's English College.

Wong Sik Chung, Diocesan Boys' School.

Chiu Tsin Ki, Diocesan Boys' School.

Choi Man Ping, Diocesan Boys' School.

Kam Chung Yan, Diocesan Boys' School.

Kwong In Shun, Diocesan Boys' School.

Ng Pak Chau, Diocesan Boys' School.

Ng Tai Nin, Diocesan Boys' School.

Chau Yik Tsai, Belilios Public School.

Cheung Yik King, Belilios Public School.

Iu Choi Ying, Belilios Public School.

Wong Po Kwai, Belilios Public School.

Yuen Kwai Sun, Belilios Public School.

V. E. Manning, Diocesan Girls' School.

Yeung Yik Wa, Belilios Public School.

THE VULCAN COMPANY.

The Vulcan Steel Products Company was not organised to take advantage of conditions brought on by the war. Its ideals were formulated long before the present conflict began. Although considerable business has resulted from the abnormal conditions existing, the Company's ambition has been to exercise its extensive knowledge of international trade for the benefit of those engaged in peaceful pursuits.

Despite the disorganization of transportation facilities in general, favourable connections with various railroad and shipping interests secure the most prompt deliveries possible to all countries.

The Vulcan Steel Products Company handles Steel, Iron, and Machinery products. Every other conceivable raw or manufactured product is handled by the Vulcan Trading Corporation, which has had just as remarkable a rise as the older organization.

The Vulcan Companies command an enviable position in the world of trade. In a twelve-month they have achieved what has taken the most progressive firms years to attain. The strong foundation they have erected in this wonderfully short period has undoubtedly established an organization that will contribute very largely to the perpetuation of American commerce abroad.

INTIMATIONS

LANE, CRAWFORD AND COMPANY.

WE INVITE YOU

TO MAKE FULL USE OF OUR

TELEPHONE SERVICE

1741

(TWO LINES).

RING UP

SUB-EXCHANGE TO ALL DEPARTMENTS.

FREE DELIVERIES

TO ALL PARTS OF THE COLONY.

LANE, CRAWFORD & CO.



PALMOLIVE SOAP.

INFORMATION FREELY GIVEN AS TO

ADVERTISING AND CALENDAR PROPOSITION.

ANDERSEN, MEYER & CO.,

Hotel Mansions. Telephone 1880.

Wm. Powell Ltd

TELEPHONE 346

NEW SHOES

— FOR —

LADIES'

AFTERNOON WEAR.

STYLISH BOOTS & SHOES

JUST ARRIVED!

FOR SALE.

USED POSTAGE STAMPS (all different).

1000 Stamps \$ 8.00	2500 Stamps \$ 50.00
1500 " 15.00	3000 " 100.00
1800 " 20.00	4000 " 175.00
2000 " 25.00	

GRACA & CO.

No. 4 WING LUN STREET, HONGKONG.

ON SALE.

TABLE OF THE RATES OF EXCHANGE AT BOMBAY For Demand Drafts on London on the day of or preceding the departure of the English Mail; also Table of the Yearly Approximate Average for 30 years.

PRICE — \$1 Cash.

On Sale at the DAILY PRESS Office and Local Bookstalls.

NEW ADVERTISEMENTS

ROYAL HONGKONG GOLF CLUB.

THROUGH the courtesy of the Stewards of the Jockey Club, Members can claim their Golf Clubs this afternoon (FRIDAY), in the Jockey Club Rooms on the Race Course kindly lent for the purpose. The Bags and Clubs will be transferred during the morning and will be ready for Members after 2 P.M.

JOHN BENTLEY,
Hon. Secretary.
[1708]

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF HONGKONG.

SUMMARY JURISDICTION.

Action No. 285 of 1918.

Between IP KAN KI, Plaintiff,
and
KU PING NAM, trading as the
KWONG CHEUNG HING LAY,
Defendant.

CHEUNG FONG LAL, Manager of
THE TUNG ON SHEET DEALERS
Ground, No. 240, Des Voeux Road,
West, Victoria, Hongkong.
[1710]

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a WRIT OF FOREIGN ATTACHMENT was issued herein on the 28th day of February, 1918, returnable on the 10th day of March, 1918.

Dated the 29th day of February, 1918.
LO & LO,
Solicitors for the Plaintiff.
[1713]

THE HONGKONG ROPE MANUFACTURING CO., LTD.

THE THIRTY-FOURTH ORDINARY ANNUAL MEETING of SHAREHOLDERS in the above Company will be held at St. George's Building, Chater Road, Victoria, on SATURDAY, the 9th March, 1918, at 11.30 o'clock in the forenoon, for the purpose of receiving a Statement of Accounts and the Report of the General Managers for the year ending 31st December, 1917, and electing a Consulting Committee and Auditor.

The TRANSFER BOOKS of the Company will be CLOSED from TUESDAY, the 26th March, 1918, until SATURDAY, the 9th March, 1918, both days inclusive.
SHEWAN, TOMES & Co.,
General Managers.
Hongkong, 27th February, 1918. [1713]

THE CHINA FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED.

INCORPORATED IN HONGKONG.

NOTICE TO SHAREHOLDERS.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that an EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL MEETING of THE CHINA FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED, will be held at the Head Office of the Company, Nos. 3 and 4, Queen's Buildings, Victoria, Hongkong, on THURSDAY, the 14th March, 1918, at 12.30 P.M., when the subjoined Resolution passed at an EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL MEETING convened for that purpose and held on the 14th February, 1918, will be submitted for confirmation as a Special Resolution.

"That the provisions of the Company's Memorandum of Association with respect to its objects be altered so as to read as shown in the printed signed for the purpose of identification by the Chairman of the Meeting."

Should the above Resolution be confirmed as a Special Resolution by the requisite majority the alterations in the Company's Memorandum of Association consequently involved will be submitted to the Supreme Court of Hongkong for confirmation. A Print of the Memorandum as proposed to be altered can be seen at the Head Office of the Company.

Dated this 1st day of March, 1918.

G. MONTAGUE EDE,
General Manager.
[1714]

TO ALL WHOM IT MAY CONCERN.

IN consequence of the Maximilianist declaration that Russia has suspended the state of war with the Central Powers, and that all agreements with her Allies have become void, I, the undersigned, Captain D. A. LUKHMANOFF, hereby announce:

Firstly, that from the bottom of my heart I send my curse to the political adventures of all descriptions and shades, from Sturmer and Protapoff to Lenin and Trotsky, who have brought my beloved country to the present state of anarchy, famine, weakness, political prostitution, and infamy.

And, secondly, that my heart, my brains, and my hands will stay till my last gasp with the noble Allies, who have united all their efforts and fearlessly shed their precious blood to save the world from the clutches of German militarism.

CAPT. D. A. LUKHMANOFF, R.V.F.,
K.S.A., R.S.S., etc., etc. [1715]

THE EAST ASIATIC CO., LTD.

NOTICE TO CONSIGNEES.

FROM U.S.A. JAPAN AND SHANGHAI.

THE Motorship "PERU."

having arrived from the above ports, Consignees of Cargo by her are hereby informed that all goods are being landed at their risk into the warehouse and/or extra-barracks Godowns of the Hongkong and Kowloon Wharf and Godown Co., Ltd., whence and/or from the wharves delivery may be obtained.

Goods not cleared by the 7th inst. will be subject to rent.

All broken, chafed and damaged packages are to be left in the Godowns, where they will be examined on the 6th inst. at 10 A.M.

Claims against the steamer must be presented within 10 days of arrival, otherwise they will not be recognized.

No. Five Insurance will be effected by us in any case whatever.

Bills of Lading will be countersigned by THORSEN & Co., Agents.
Hongkong, 1st March, 1918. [1719]

NEW ADVERTISEMENTS

LOST.

BLACK SATIN BAG, containing a GOLD WRIST WATCH, between Cherry's Shop and Wiseman's Café. Suitable reward for return to Mrs. STEWART, King Edward Hotel, [1720]

HONGKONG GYMKHANA CLUB.

THE ANNUAL MEETING of Members will be held at the Rooms of the Hongkong Jockey Club (Hongkong Club Annex) on MONDAY, March 4th, at 5.15 P.M. [1718]

THE HONGKONG JOCKEY CLUB.

PURCHASERS OF PARIMUTUEL TICKETS on the 5th Race, Second Day, for Cash Sweeps, Places and Winners, also Cash Sweep ticket holders, of following Races, can obtain a refund on production of their tickets at the Offices of the Hongkong Jockey Club on the Ground Floor of the HONGKONG CLUB ANNEX, CHATER ROAD, between the hours of 1.30 P.M. to 5.30 P.M. on MONDAY, 4th March, 1918, until 20th March (Saturdays and Sundays excepted).

HOLDERS OF UNPAID WINNING TICKETS (Cash Sweeps, Places and Winners) will also be paid at the same place and between the same hours as stated above on production of their tickets.

LOWE, RINGHAM & MATTHEWS,
Accountants to the
Hongkong Jockey Club. [1717]

NOTICE.

WE HAVE authorized Mr. ALBERT EDWARD CRAPNELL to Sign our Firm name as from the 1st day of March, 1918.

LANE CRAWFORD & Co.,
Hongkong, 1st March, 1918. [1709]

NOTICE.

MR. ALBERT EDWARD CRAPNELL having Resigned his position with our Firm, the Power of Attorney granted in his favour is this day withdrawn.

MOXON & TAYLOR,
Hongkong, 1st March, 1918. [1710]

FOR SALE.

TUSCULUM, Barker Road, 155, Peak.

Apply—DUNCAN CLARK,
Care of LANE, CRAWFORD & Co. [1711]

TENDERS.

SEALED TENDERS are invited for Upholstery, Dyeing, Dry-cleaning Work, Miscellaneous Articles and Repairs, Clocks, and Slop Watches for H.M. Naval Establishments for one year from the 1st April next.

Tenders will be received at the Commodore's Office until Noon on FRIDAY, 15th March, 1918.

Forms of Tender may be obtained on application to the Naval Store Officer, H.M. Naval Yard.

The right is reserved of rejecting all or any tenders and of accepting any portion of a tender.

G. L. PLATT,
Naval Store Officer.
[1718]

HONGKONG HOTEL.

RACE WEEK.

THE DANCERS advertised for the week are CANCELLED in view of the Sad Catastrophe at Happy Valley.

J. H. TAGGART,
Manager.
[1704]

"PINKIE AND THE FAIRIES."

ST. GEORGE'S DAY PRODUCTION.

REHEARSALS for the BALLET will be RESUMED TO-DAY (FRIDAY), 1st March, and those who have already signified their desire to assist are requested to attend regularly on FRIDAY and TUESDAY at 8.15 P.M. at the THEATRE ROYAL.

There are Vacancies for more Dancers, and Aspirants should apply on the above days at the Theatre.

[1705]

ROYAL HONGKONG GOLF CLUB.

LADIES' SECTION.

WOODHOUSE CUP.

THE dates for the play-off of the 2nd and following rounds of the Competition for the above Cup have been extended one week.

[1700]

DIOCEBAN GIRLS' SCHOOL.

KOWLOON.

SCHOOL will RE-OPEN on March 12th, at 9 A.M. Scholars return March 11th. An Assistant Mistress is required for the above. Apply to—

THE HEADMISTRESS. [1707]

THE LIVERPOOL AND LONDON AND GLOBE INSURANCE CO., LTD.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN.

that Mr. CHAS. CASANOVA Pa. having voluntarily Resigned from the position of Comptroller to this Company as from 26th inst. we have appointed Mr. KWOK HIN WANG to be Comptroller in his place for our Hongkong and Canton Offices.

JOHN DE B. LANCASTER,
Acting Local Manager.
Hongkong, 26th February, 1918. [1698]

INTIMATIONS

HONGKONG HOTEL CO., LTD.

NOTICE.

THE ORDINARY HALF-YEARLY MEETING of SHAREHOLDERS will be held at the Company's Hotel, TO-DAY (FRIDAY), the 1st March, 1918, at 12.15 P.M., for the purpose of receiving a Statement of Accounts to 31st December, 1917, with the Report of the Directors and to discuss any matter that may be competently brought before the Meeting.

The TRANSFER BOOKS of the Company will be CLOSED from 22nd February to 1st March, 1918, both days inclusive.

By Order of the Board,
J. H. TAGGART,
Secretary.
Hongkong, 18th February, 1918. [1640]

HONGKONG GENERAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of the Members of the HONGKONG GENERAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE will be held on TUESDAY, 5th March, 1918, at 4 P.M. precisely, in the CHAMBER OF COMMERCE ROOM, CHARTERED BANK BUILDING, for the following purposes:

- (1) To receive the Report and Accounts of the Committee for the year ended 31st December, 1917.
- (2) To elect a New Committee.
- (3) To transact any General Business.

By Order,
E. A. M. WILLIAMS,
Secretary.
Hongkong, 22nd February, 1918. [1674]

THE ASSOCIATION OF EXPORTERS AND DEALERS OF HONGKONG.

THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of the Members of the ASSOCIATION OF EXPORTERS AND DEALERS OF HONGKONG will be held on WEDNESDAY, 6th March, 1918, at 4 P.M. precisely, in the CHAMBER OF COMMERCE ROOM, CHARTERED BANK BUILDING, for the following purposes:

- (1) To receive the Report and Accounts of the Committee for the year ended 31st December, 1917.
- (2) To elect a New Committee.
- (3) To transact any General Business.

By Order,
E. A. M. WILLIAMS,
Secretary.
Hongkong, 22nd February, 1918. [1675]

HONGKONG AND SHANGHAI BANKING CORPORATION.

THE FINAL DIVIDEND DECLARED for the Year ending 31st December, 1917, at the rate of Two Pounds Three Shillings Sterling, together with a Bonus of One Pound Sterling per Share, is payable on and after MONDAY, the 25th day of February, Current, at the Offices of the Corporation, where Shareholders are requested to apply for Warrants.

By Order of the Court of Directors,
N. J. STARR,
Chief Manager.
Hongkong, 23rd February, 1918. [1686]

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The Daily Press.

HONGKONG, 1st MARCH, 1918.

DEMOCRACY AND FOREIGN POLICY.

IN spite of the asseverations of the statesmen of the belligerent Powers that the conditions offered on either side do not give any scope for peace negotiations, it has been remarked that peace negotiations on a large scale are proceeding nevertheless, and that not in any secret conclave but with all mankind as critics and arbiters. In former wars the peace terms were matters of secret debate between statesmen and were largely swayed by questions of *haute politique*, that is to say, the great Powers decided how they would have the world cut up, and the small Powers had to listen to their decisions, no matter how they were affected by the results. Moreover, those decisions were not dictated by the people of the countries responsible. By a curious survival from autocratic times, even in European States enjoying republican politics questions of foreign policy are not supposed to come within the purview of the people. They are decided by statesmen in secret, and although the publicity that now exists in regard to affairs of State renders absolute secrecy impossible, it is still within the power of most of the Cabinets of Europe to declare war without any reference to the people electing them. The power formerly held by autocratic sovereigns of deciding upon foreign affairs and using the people as pawns in the "clever foreign game" has thus passed unimpaired to their responsible Ministers, who, in the past, have engaged in dangerous negotiations and policies, declared war, and made peace without any reference to those bodies from whom they are supposed to derive their power. The framers of the Constitution of the United States of America had different ideas. Although the President of the United States has very full powers, neither he nor his Ministers can enter into any foreign engagements without the consent of Congress. This is an effective bar

against any of those secret treaties which have been so fruitful of trouble in the past, not so much from their contents as from the knowledge possessed by other nations that such treaties were in existence and might contain provisions menacing their independence. The methods of handling foreign affairs in the United States are essentially democratic, and America's entrance into the war must be considered as one of the factors tending to break down the foreign policy traditions of the European Powers. Another factor is the attitude of Russia. Whatever else may be said of them, the Bolsheviks cannot be accused of trying to play one Power off against another for their own advantage. On the contrary, they have shown a remarkable naïveté, taking for granted that the Central Powers were as sincere as themselves in desiring peace on the basis of "no annexations and no indemnities." This very ingenuousness seems likely to ruin their hopes of establishing the independence of their country, but, apart from German machinations, it has certainly been an incentive to that free and open discussion of international relations which continues in spite of censors and other obstruction put in its way. Never has there been such solidarity among the greater part of humanity in so far as discussion of their common happiness is concerned, and never was there a greater desire for frankness of speech and openness of procedure. In this sense it may be said that peace negotiations are proceeding all the time on the very widest basis—the basis which demands that the people themselves should decide the readjustment of the world. Russia's principle of "self-determination" hardly understood when first enounced, then derided, has now become a watchword adopted by President Wilson in his great speech before Congress. No doubt the old ideas of foreign policy will die hard. In Germany, under an iron censorship, the new ideas seem to have made hardly any way, the recent strike riots being more in the nature of a demonstration than a revolt against the established order of things in that country. Elsewhere, however, the discussion goes on, and there can be no objection to that so long as the facts are not distorted. Although the war has, in a sense, curtailed the peoples' liberties and swept away many old and cherished traditions of freedom, it is rightly claimed as one waged to make the world safe for democracy. If the coming Peace Conference is to rearrange the map of Europe, it must do so on principles which grant the peoples absolute independence. How long such independence will last is, of course, a moot point. Only incorrigible optimists can believe that we have henceforward done with wars on this planet, but, on the principle that each nation gets the form of government which it deserves, it may be claimed that each nation should be given a chance to form its own policy. If the principle of free and open foreign policy be affirmed, more will have been done to secure peace between nations than could be secured by any league of nations or measure of disarmament. The world safe for democracy means a world where no monarch or statesman or group of statesmen is allowed to pledge his or their country to a secret compact with the ruler or statesmen of another country. The present condition of the world is not exactly a testimonial to the efficiency or wisdom of the statesmen who have hitherto held the destinies of mankind in their control. Is it surprising that they should now be asked to relinquish their power into the hands of the people?

The dates for the play-off of the 2nd and following rounds of the Woodhouse Cup competition have been extended one week by the Royal Hongkong Golf Club (ladies' section).

The annual meeting of the local auxiliary of the British and Foreign Bible Society will be held at the Helena May Institute on Tuesday afternoon under the chairmanship of the Bishop of Victoria.

We are informed by Bishop Pozzoni that on Monday next at 8 a.m., a solemn Requiem Mass will be sung in the Catholic Cathedral for the repose of the souls of those who lost their lives in the sad catastrophe at the Happy Valley. All Catholics are earnestly exhorted to assist at this service, not only in order to succour the souls of the deceased, but also as an expression of sympathy towards their relatives in their sad bereavement.

The collections on Sunday next at St. John's Cathedral will be on behalf of the Diocesan Girls' School.

The London Post Office advises that all parcels (except those for Prisoners-of-War), and all sample packets for Denmark, Holland, Norway, Spain, Sweden, and Switzerland will be stopped by the Military Censors unless posted under a War Office permit.

The address at the Helena May Institute, on "Canada, the War, and the World's Goodwill," to which the public are invited, will be given this afternoon at 5.30 and promises to be an event of unusual interest and importance. The speaker, Dr. J. A. Macdonald, LL.D., whose book, "The North American Idea," discusses the growth of liberty, just government, and freedom of individual action, has a big reputation as a platform orator on the North American continent.

An advertisement appears in another column with reference to the distribution of the bags and clubs to members of the Golf Club that were recovered from the Happy Valley Club House on the occasion of the fire. The bags had to be removed hurriedly and, as a consequence, some of their contents fell out and were replaced indiscriminately. Members are requested, therefore, to exercise every care in claiming their property. The Clubs sent from Failing on Tuesday afternoon by cart have been returned to the Failing Club House.

CHINESE TELEGRAMS

CHINA'S FRONTIERS TO BE GUARDED.

[FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.]

PEKING, February 27th.

A Cabinet meeting on Tuesday considered the question of sending troops to Siberia and decided to dispatch an army of twenty thousand to Manchuria simultaneously with the Japanese Expedition. The necessary ammunition will be furnished by Japan.

CANTON NEWS.

[BY COURTESY OF THE "CHUNG NGOI SAN PO."]

CANTON, February 28th.

THE MURDER OF ADMIRAL CHING.

It is stated that when the Admiral was fired at he cried out "Catch him! Catch him!" After uttering these few words he became unconscious and remained so till his death.

The Admiral's funeral will take place on the 1st of March, and a memorial meeting will be held on the same day. A bomb was picked up near the spot where the Admiral was murdered, and it is believed to have been left behind by the assassin.

The Superintendent of Police has offered \$10,000 for the arrest of the assassin, and the Provisional Government has offered \$5,000.

THE NEW ADMIRAL.

Chief Commander of the 1st Squadron, Lam Po-yik, will succeed the late Admiral Ching. He states that he will follow the late Admiral's example and protect the Chinese Republic.

It is reported that, as a result of furious attacks by General Lung's troops, Chung Kong was occupied yesterday. The Canton troops have retreated a few miles, and are now preparing to reconquer the city.

[FROM THE INTELLIGENCE BUREAU OF CANTON.]

ASSASSINATION OF ADMIRAL CHING.

Admiral Ching Pi-kwang, Minister of the Chinese Navy, was assassinated at 8.45 on the evening of February 28th, on the Bund, Canton, while landing from a sampan from his headquarters at the Haichu. Death was instantaneous, and the assassin escaped. Admiral Lin Po-yih, Commander-in-Chief of the First Squadron, will have charge of the Navy pending further action.

Generalissimo Sun Yat-sen and all Constitutionalists deplore and condemn this cruel and unmanly action of the enemy of law and order. They reaffirm their belief that no enduring peace will ever come to China unless militarists and others are made to respect and observe the Constitution of the Republic and its supreme law of the land. The death of Admiral Ching will not affect the determination of the South-West for good government and a free country. His sacrifice and the devotion of his noble life to a noble cause will but hasten all friends of liberty to the realization of a Constitution and a free and representative assembly in the Republic of China.

Dr. Sun Yat-sen, the Generalissimo of the Military Government, has been officially advised of the capture of Ching, in Szehuan, by the Constitutional forces. Generalissimo Sun has forwarded his congratulations to the troops. Other districts in Szehuan have also pledged their support to the Military Government.

GERMANS IN THE PHILIPPINES.

We learn on good authority that all the German firms in the Philippines are in process of liquidation, and that the Pacific Commercial Co., the Philippine Vegetable Oil Co., and other leading firms have already dismissed all their German employees.

THE WAR.

GERMAN CHANCELLOR'S SPEECH.

GLARING EXAMPLE OF INCONSISTENCY.

BRITISH HOSPITAL SHIP TORPEDOED.

JAPAN'S ROLE IN THE WAR.

EUROPEAN CONTINENTAL LEAGUE.

Franco-Belgian Front.

LATEST CABLES.

(THROUGH REUTER'S AGENCY.)

BRITISH FRONT.

ENEMY RAIDS REPULSED.

LONDON, February 27th. Field-Marshal Sir Douglas Haig, in a report, states:—There is artillery fighting at Flesquieres and Ypres. Our night-fliers dropped over 1,200 bombs, chiefly on aerodromes at Ghent and Tournai used by enemy night machines, also on the aerodrome at Courtrai. We bombed billets at Douai and dropped 350 bombs on billets at St. Quentin. All our machines returned.

There was reciprocal artillery firing north-eastward and eastward of Ypres.

EARLIER CABLES.

ARTILLERY FIGHTING.

LONDON, February 27th. Field-Marshal Sir Douglas Haig, in a report, states:—There is artillery fighting at Flesquieres and Ypres.

AVIATION.

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LATEST CABLES.

FRENCH FRONT.

AMERICANS' FIRST EXPERIENCE OF GAS ATTACK.

LONDON, February 27th. Reuter's Correspondent with the American Army in France states:—The Americans had their first experience of a gas attack north-west of Tournai on February 26th.

Mutual artillery firing continues, and the American guns are shelling Montsec.

ENEMY BOMB NANCY.

PARIS, February 27th. A communiqué states:—Our fire stopped an enemy attempt, after a violent bombardment, to approach our new positions south-west of Butte-du-Mesnil in Champagne.

Enemy aeroplanes bombed Nancy last night. Two were killed and eleven injured.

EARLIER CABLES.

THE AMERICAN COUP-DE-MAIN.

LONDON, February 27th. Reuter's Correspondent at the French Headquarters says that American troops were engaged for the first time in a fight of their own seeking, in a coup-de-main carried out by a mixed French and American detachment in the Alletti Valley, near Chavigny, on February 26th. The party numbered a hundred.

There was a call for volunteers and practically every American in the Chemin-des-Dames sector responded, of whom 26 were selected.

The raid was entirely successful and lasted for twenty-five minutes. It yielded 25 prisoners and a machine gun.

ARTILLERY ACTIVE.

PARIS, February 27th. A communiqué states:—There is marked reciprocal artillery activity north of Chemin-des-Dames, on both banks of the Meuse, but especially at Hill 304, Monthomme, Beaumont, and Chambrétet.

Aerial Activities.

LATEST CABLES.

(THROUGH REUTER'S AGENCY.)

NAVAL AIRCRAFT ACTIVE.

LONDON, February 27th. The Admiralty reports:—Naval aircraft on Monday night dropped many tons of bombs on the Ostender and Bruges docks, obtaining good results. Two further raids were made on Tuesday on the Engel dump and the Abele aerodrome. All our machines returned.

CAREER OF A GERMAN RAIDER.

PASSENGERS AND CREWS OF SUNK SHIPS ON BOARD.

COPENHAGEN, February 26th. The Spanish steamer *Igotzendi*, captured by the German raider *Wolf*, has been stranded east of the Skaw Light-house.

There was a German prize crew aboard and also passengers and crews of half a dozen sunk ships.

A number of passengers were rescued, including nine women and two children, a lawyer and his wife from Singapore, a sexagenarian Professor of Sydney University and also two Australian medical officers, who have been interned.

Several crews of sunk ships have been aboard the *Igotzendi* for eight months. The rescued passengers, who were mostly British, said that they had been very ill-fed for the last month.

The prize crew and the Spanish crew refuse to leave the ship. There has been beri-beri and scurvy aboard.

LATER.

The *Igotzendi* is a 6,000 ton ship. She was captured by the *Wolf* in the Indian Ocean nine months ago. A German prize crew was put aboard, since when she has followed the *Wolf*.

VESSEL BEING DRIVEN FURTHER ASHORE.

COPENHAGEN, February 27th. A gale, accompanied by high seas, is driving the *Igotzendi* further ashore. The Spanish crew is expected to leave the ship. If so the prize crew will then be taken to Copenhagen.

LONDON, February 27th. A message from Copenhagen states that the Spanish crew and prize crew have been brought ashore. The former are proceeding home and the latter are being interned.

STORY OF THE SINKINGS.

COPENHAGEN, February 27th. The crew of the *Igotzendi* say that the steamer was captured en route to Australia with 7,000 tons of coal. The next victim was the British steamer *Matunga*, with a valuable cargo. The crew of the *Matunga* were taken aboard the *Wolf* and were well treated. The three ships proceeded to a desert Dutch island, where part of the *Matunga's* cargo was stored and the most valuable part taken aboard the *Wolf*, after which the *Matunga* was sunk. Shortly after the American barque *Beluga* was sunk; then the 6,000 ton Japanese steamer, *Takis Maru* (1 *Himeki Maru*) full of Asiatics, who were taken aboard.

The *Wolf* and *Igotzendi* returned via the Cape, parting company south of Iceland, the *Igotzendi* going north and the *Wolf* south.

LATEST CABLES.

THE "WOLF" ARRIVES AT KIEL.

AMSTERDAM, February 27th. The German raider *Wolf* has arrived at Kiel. The town was bagged.

GERMAN CLAIMS.

LONDON, February 27th. A wireless German official report claims that the *Wolf* destroyed 35 merchantmen, aggregating 210,000 gross tonnage. Many of the larger of these are irreplaceable for a considerable time. Several were laden with troops. The sinkings, therefore, caused a corresponding loss of life.

The communiqué also claims the sinking of the Japanese warship *Haruma*, 28,000 tons, and badly damaging a Japanese or English cruiser, name unknown.

The British Admiralty states that no British cruiser has been damaged, and the value of the rest of the report may be gauged by such a claim.

The Japanese Naval Attaché declares that the report so far as the *Haruma* or any Japanese cruiser is concerned is without foundation.

The Near East.

LATEST CABLES.

OPERATION IN PALESTINE.

ARABS DRIVE OFF ENEMY CAMEL CORPS.

LONDON, February 27th. A Palestine official report states:—The Arabs on February 18th drove off enemy camels at Abuhana station on the Hedjaz railway.

We successfully bombed El Kerank and El Kutrah stations.

Our mounted troops on February 26th reached Rujmeh on the Dead Sea near the Jordan mouth, and Mandes Ford on the Jordan.

EARLIER CABLES.

TURKS OCCUPY TREBIZOND.

LONDON, February 26th. A telegram from Constantinople states that the Turks have entered Trebizond.

Russian Front.

LATEST CABLES.

(THROUGH REUTER'S AGENCY.)

RUSSIAN FRONT.

GERMAN REPORT.

LONDON, February 27th. A wireless German official report states:—We captured two Russian regiments northward of Dorpat and dispersed a battalion opposing us thirty kilometres eastward of Jitomir.

We reached Berditcheff, southward of Jitomir, and captured at Klemenets the Russian Commander's staff and 200 men. We brought down on the Western Front on Tuesday 15 aeroplanes and three captive balloons.

General.

LATEST CABLES.

(THROUGH REUTER'S AGENCY.)

EUROPEAN CONTINENTAL LEAGUE.

TO PREVENT THE WORLD BECOMING ANGLO-SAXON.

LONDON, February 27th.

The *Times*, quoting an article from the Munich *Neuzeit Nachrichten*, which criticised the noisy school of publicists in Berlin who are urging the creation of a European Continental League from Berlin to Tokio, so that the world will not become Anglo-Saxon, says: "The indiscretion of the Bavarian newspaper reveals what the Allied statesmen have long known; that one of the objects of the German policy is to refit a scheme by which to embroil Japan with the United States and the Western Allies in order to deal with her at leisure. Germany may not know, as all the responsible Allied statesmen have known, that the situation created in Russia by the conclusion of a separate peace has not taken the Japanese Government by surprise.

The possibility that Germanophile tendencies in Imperial Russia might bring about a separate Russo-German peace caused the responsible directors of the Japanese policy more than a year ago to ponder action that might become imperative in the Far East if Russia proved false to her pledges. Unless we are gravely mistaken in our estimate of the Japanese character the situation which has now arisen will appeal to the statesmen in Tokio not less urgently. Japan, as a true and helpful ally, may be trusted to face the present position unflinchingly, and the moment may be at hand for her Allies to support her in any action she may feel bound to undertake for the protection of her own and their interests."

TO PREVENT INVASION OF SIBERIA.

Japanese circles in London believe that Germany intends to invade Siberia when the time is ripe. The opinion is held that the only way to prevent this is by the Japanese occupation of part, or perhaps the whole, of Manchuria, or even to send armies into Siberia.

GERMANY AND ROUMANIA.

REPRESENTATIVES' MEETING INTERRUPTED.

AMSTERDAM, February 27th. The Vienna newspapers state that General Averescu longingly conferred with General Mackensen, but the negotiations are not progressing owing to General Averescu's stubbornness. The papers declare that the Central Powers will not be drawn into long negotiations.

Jassy, February 27th.

General Averescu has returned from Bucharest. His meeting with the Central Powers' representatives was interrupted on the first day, as Count Cernin and Baron Kuehlmann were suddenly called to Brest Litovsk.

UNION OF SAXONY AND LITHUANIA.

ZURICH, February 27th. A message from Dresden states that negotiations are proceeding for the union of Saxony and Lithuania, with Prince Frederick Christian as King of Lithuania.

V.C. AWARDS.

LONDON, February 27th. New Victoria Cross awards are gazetted and include:—

Corporal CHARLES TRAIN, London Rifles. When his company was brought to a standstill by a party of enemy machine-gunners at close range, Train on his own initiative, rushed forward and put some of the team out of action with a direct hit by a rifle grenade. Then he killed or wounded the remainder and afterwards killed one of the enemy who was carrying off the gun. He thus saved his battalion many casualties.

Lance-Corporal JOHN CHRISTIE, London Rifles. After capturing a position the enemy counter-attacked and Christie took a supply of bombs over the top and proceeded alone for fifty yards into the open and bombed the enemy until the position was consolidated, but the enemy got round to the rear, whereupon Christie returned and bombed and broke them up. His action, which was carried out in face of heavy shell and machine-gun fire, cleared a difficult position at a critical time and saved many lives.

BRITISH SHIPPING.

LONDON, February 27th. The Admiralty reports the arrivals for the week 2,274 and the sailings 2,298. Fourteen over and four under 1,000 tons were sunk and nine vessels were unsuccessfully attacked. Seven fishing boats were sunk.

AFFAIRS IN RUSSIA.

SUCCESS OF REVOLUTIONARY TROOPS.

LONDON, February 27th.

A wireless Russian official report states:—Revolutionary troops captured Novotcherkas. The Cadet officials fled.

TREMENDOUS RUSSIAN SUPPLIES ENDANGERED.

PETROGRAD, February 27th. When the news of the capture of Pskoff was received the Government constituted itself an Extraordinary General Staff and worked all night long organising resistance and eventually despatched 10 Regiments with armoured cars in the direction of Pskoff headed by members of the Government.

A telegram from Moscow states that 75,000 Revolutionary troops have gone to protect Pskoff. On the railway at Pskoff are four hundred million roubles worth of supplies and munitions.

SWEDEN OCCUPIES AALAND ISLANDS.

HELSINGBORG, February 27th. A Swedish force occupied the Aaland Islands on February 24th.

RED GUARDS ATTACK SWEDISH TROOPS.

LONDON, February 27th. A conflict between Swedish and Russian troops is reported from the Aaland Islands, where the Russian batteries fired on the Swedish military expedition on arrival, but the shells exploded in the water.

The Red Guards attacked two Swedish posts and hand-to-hand fighting occurred in one case. This will inevitably entail further military intervention by Sweden, whose people are unanimous in deprecating the Aaland Islands, which in foreign hands are a danger to Sweden.

EARLIER CABLES.

THE RUSSO-GERMAN PEACE TERMS.

NEWSPAPER COMMENT.

LONDON, February 27th. While many details of the Russo-German terms are not yet clear the general effect is that Finland, Estonia, Poland, Courland, Lithuania and Ukraine are at Germany's disposal.

Newspaper comment chiefly emphasises the moral that against Russian non-resistance is not only futile but in the last degree ruinous.

The *Manchester Guardian* does not think that the terms could have been harder, and is of the opinion that Germany has not asked for the fleet to be handed over. There were fears for its destruction and Germany hopes to secure it otherwise.

The *Westminster Gazette* points out the gulf between Allied Labour and Prussian war aims, and says that the German terms to Russia are unparalleled for callousness and cynicism.

Vorwarts frankly admits that when the Bolsheviks broke up the army they greatly helped German imperialism.

RUSSIA REFUSED ARMISTICE.

LONDON, February 27th. A Russian wireless official message states:—The German Government has formally refused an armistice, for they desire not peace but a straggling of the revolution. The obstinate and pitiless resistance of the German hordes is thus the principal task of the revolution.

Their greatest strength is in the wide territories and occupation of Revel, Pskoff and even Petrograd, which is still very distant and in no way decides the destiny of the revolution. Should the Soviet Government will retire to Moscow, or anywhere else in Russia, but the present task is to bar the roads leading to Petrograd with every obstacle. We will prove to the Germans that they must disperse through Russia before they can crush the authority of the Soviets. The deeper their forces penetrate, the more surely will they bring revolution in Germany.

REVOLUTIONARY POPULATION MOBILISING.

PETROGRAD, February 27th. The Bolsheviks announce that the revolutionary population of all classes is mobilising for a vigorous defence of the capital. Long queues are lined up at the arsenals awaiting arms and ammunition.

LATEST CABLES.

DECLARATION BY JAPAN.

TOKYO, February 27th. In the House of Representatives, Baron Motono, Foreign Minister, declared that if a Russo-German peace is concluded Japan will take most decided and most adequate steps to meet the occasion. The fullest understanding existed with Great Britain, America and the other Allies regarding the question of Russia's separate peace.

RUSSIAN DELEGATES DELAYED.

LONDON, February 27th. The haste to rush the Germans through Russia is explained by the fact that Russian delegates, who were going to Brest Litovsk to sign the Peace Treaty, were delayed by the destruction of the railway bridges, necessitating their progress by road.

GREAT BRITAIN'S ATTITUDE.

LONDON, February 27th. In the House of Commons Mr. Balfour stated that the Government intended, despite any peace treaty which Russia and Roumania might meanwhile be forced to make, that the fate of the Russian provinces occupied by Germany, also Roumania and Armenia, should be decided at the peace conference.

THE ALLIED LABOUR MEMORANDUM.

GERMAN COMMENT.

AMSTERDAM, February 27th.

Commenting upon the Allied Labour Memorandum, the *Völkische Zeitung* says it cannot serve as a basis for peace.

Vorwarts says it breathes conciliation but with threats, and complains that it imitates the official *Entente* silence as regards the returning of the German Colonies.

GOVERNOR OF FIJI.

The Press Bureau announce:—Mr. Cecil Hunter Rodwell, C.M.G., Imperial Secretary to Lord Buxton, has been appointed Governor of Fiji.

EARLIER CABLES.

COUNT HERTLING'S SPEECH.

ACCUSATION AIMED AT ENGLAND.

LONDON, February 27th.

Count Hertling, continuing his speech on war aims in the Reichstag, referring to President Wilson's second principle outlined on February 12th, said one ought to think that President Wilson was labouring under an illusion that antagonism existed in Germany between an autocratic Government and a mass of people without rights.

Count Hertling accused England of inventing a game of balance of power in order to oppose any European State which threatened to become too powerful. He declared that Germany undertook the present operations in Russia in the name of humanity. He was confident that a Russo-German peace would soon be concluded. History never more strikingly confirmed the Aristotelian dictum: "We must resolve upon war for the sake of peace."

He described Germany's rôle in Bukharest as not only being to protect her own interests, but to see that a compromise was arranged as regards her allies divergent claims. This will probably arouse difficulties, but all-round goodwill will overcome them. He accused England of a policy of annexations. Her colonial war aims were directed to the increasing and rounding off of enormous possessions, especially Africa. He gave a denial that he had ever harboured a thought of invading Swiss neutrality.

LATEST CABLES.

ITALIAN PRESS VIEW.

ROME, February 27th. The Italian Press are unanimous that Count Hertling's speech leaves the situation unchanged. The Allies must discard the illusion of the eventual separation of Austria-Hungary and Germany and be firmly prepared to meet the offensive of the enemy army which will follow the Chancellor's pacifist "gas."

FRENCH PRESS COMMENT.

PARIS, February 27th. *Le Temps* says that Count Hertling's miserable manoeuvre to entrap Belgium will fail in the face of the patriotism of the Belgians.

The *Journaux Debats* says it was probably in order to calm domestic public opinion rather than bring the Allies to heel that Count Hertling spoke in comparatively measured terms.

BRITISH PRESS OPINION.

LONDON, February 27th. The newspapers are unanimous in declaring that Count Hertling's speech is the most glaring example hitherto of the inconsistency of German words and deeds in view of what is going on in Russia.

The *Daily News* denounces the audacity of his references to Belgium, and declares there can be no effective basis of negotiation until Belgium is unconditionally restored.

The paper believes that the growing volume of democratic forces will still effect a satisfactory settlement and save Russia.

The *Daily Mail* refers to Count Hertling's ominous reference to Switzerland when he said Germany never thought of assailing Swiss neutrality, and warns Switzerland to redouble her watchfulness in view of similar assurances to Belgium before the war.

The *Daily Telegraph* characterises Count Hertling's assertion that the Allies are aware of Germany's peace conditions as a rare piece of cynicism.

The *Times* says it is well to have an open avowal of Germany's peace policy, which can be summed up in the old Imperialist maxim: *Divide et Impera*. If the Chancellor had seen the *Inter-Allied Socialist Memorandum*, he could hardly have been fatuous enough to simulate satisfaction at the supposed weakening of opinion in the *Entente* countries. He and his caste still live in an undiluted atmosphere of Frederickian militarism.

EARLIER CABLES.

BRITISH LINES UNBREAKABLE.

LONDON, February 27th. Continuing his speech at the Aldwych Club, the first portion of which appeared in our telegram yesterday, Mr. Balfour said: "Germany would not break our lines. The conduct of Germany towards Russia showed that Germany was still determined to carry out a policy of conquest. This was only to be prevented by beating her, and all peace talk was froth (Cheers)." If it were possible to have an election in the United Kingdom at present on the plain issue: "Will we continue the war until we have secured the results for which we entered the war?" the result would astonish us and our enemies.

(Continued on Page 6.)

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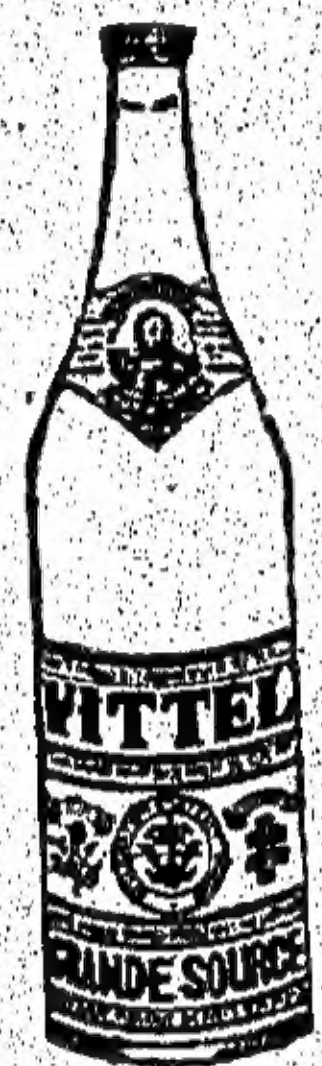
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THE WAR.

(Continued from page 5.)

General.

EARLIER CABLES.

(THROUGH REUTER'S AGENCY.)

THE OUTPUT OF SHIPYARDS APPEAL TO WORKERS

LONDON, February 27th.

In the House of Commons, Mr. Geo. Barnes appealed to men in the shipyards to put their backs into the work. He said that during the last month less than half of the estimated number of ships had been turned out. This month the position is apparently not improved. The matter was very serious, because as regards shipbuilding America was falling in. "We must turn out a much larger number of ships if we are to get through the trouble of the next few months."

LATEST CABLES.

THE SERIOUSNESS OF THE POSITION.

In the House of Commons, Mr. Bonar Law emphasized that our output of ships in January and February was very disappointing, largely owing to labour troubles. The Government had decided to take steps to inform the shipyard workers of the seriousness of the position and to convince them that their work was as vital as fighting. He was convinced that when the workers realized that then there would be no complaint at shipbuilding was decreasing because the men were not working their hardest.

EARLIER CABLES.

BULGARIA'S FINANCIAL NEEDS.

AMSTERDAM, February 27th.

A message from Sofia states that the Bulgarian Finance Minister, in the Sobranje, requesting a war credit of 1,000,000,000 francs, anticipated that the loan would not be borne by Bulgarians. This confirms telegrams that Bulgaria is demanding, in addition to Dobruja, big economic concessions and a war indemnity of a milliard francs in gold.

ELECTION SURPRISES IN SPAIN.

REFLECTION OF BOLSHIEV ANARCHISM.

MADRID, February 27th.

The Spanish elections, which were conducted under the Liberal Government, have produced a great surprise. Socialists and Republicans have almost disappeared.

The famous Republican leader, Derroix, was defeated. The Monarchists, Parties, comprising Liberals and Conservatives of various groups, secured some 300 seats. It is impossible to predict the effect upon foreign policy. It is not unlikely that these elections are the first reflection of Bolshiev anarchism, which has alarmed the sober-minded in every country.

THE POSITION IN IRELAND IRISH CONVENTION ADJOURNED.

LONDON, February 27th.

The Press Bureau announces that at a meeting of the Irish Convention, the Chairman reported the results of the delegation to the Cabinet. After discussion the Convention was adjourned until Wednesday to consider Count Plunkett's report.

OUTBREAK OF LAWLESSNESS.

The Press Bureau states that the outbreak of lawlessness in County Wick necessitated that on Sunday additional troops should be sent to assist the police. The County is declared a special military area under the Defence of the Realm Act.

WAR CABINET CONSIDERING CONDITION.

LONDON, February 27th.

In the House of Commons, Mr. Bonar Law stated that the War Cabinet had been considering the condition of a part of Ireland, but he declined to state for the present whether measures to strengthen the hands of the Executive were being contemplated.

THE LABOUR PARTY CONFERENCE.

LONDON, February 27th.

The proceedings of the Labour Party Conference are notable for the defeat of the extreme Socialists. The latter withdrew the amendment denouncing the new constitution, and, other amendments, designed to strengthen the voting power of the Independent Labour Party in the new party, were defeated by big majorities.

DEPARTMENT OF OVERSEAS TRADE.

CONSULS EXPECTED TO DEAL WITH TRADE.

LONDON, February 26th.

In the House of Commons, in introducing the estimates for the Department of Overseas Trade, Mr. Steel Maitland stated that out of sixteen Imperial Trade Commissioners, thirteen were appointed and nine actually appointed. He emphasized the necessity of up-to-date information regarding the selling of goods and also a careful analysis and record from different foreign countries of the whole methods of banking, finance, transport and other great factors in the commercial system. The British Consuls in future would be expected to deal adequately with the trade of their districts, while it would be the duty of the Commercial Attachés to keep the Government informed of the general financial development and the whole economic state of the country in which they were stationed.

THE MILITARY SERVICE (FEMALES) ACT, 1920.

(FROM THE "NATION.")

I was not a little curious to learn how women and the woman's movement had fared under the rules of war. For when I went out four years ago, the war-spirit had seized the women of all classes, and was hurrying them into munitions and other war-work, and some of the most renowned Suffragists were leading the Never-Endians. So I lost no time in looking up Martin, who had been my fellow-curate at St. Aloysius, and a mighty man of valour among the Church Suffragists.

I found him, as ever, abounding in enthusiasm for the cause and with the old exuberance of language. The great achievement of the Suffrage had, he explained, brought women back almost with a jerk, to what he called "the primal verities."

"The life of the Home! The voice that breathed!" I interjected.

"Yes," he replied, "but with a difference. The voice that breathed over Eden was a low and strong, as you shall hear. But it is no more return to the Victorian home. The home is now firmly harnessed to the State, and finds its higher meaning in that service."

"I don't quite follow," I broke in. "do you mean that the State controls the home, and that an Englishman's house is no longer his castle?"

"Oh, no; it is more, than ever, his castle, for it is armed to meet the enemy at the gate. You will remember the conflict that was always coming up between those who were interested primarily in securing home rule for women, the right to marriage and children, payment for motherhood and housekeeping, with facilities for getting rid of husbands who didn't suit, and those who were for giving marriage and the family the go-by and inciting women to realise their potentialities in the large fields of politics and business."

"Yes," I replied, "I remember how thick the air was with the reemancipating cries of free love, 'races suicide,' and the rest, and how embarrassing it all was for liberal clerics like ourselves, who saw the importance of the Church not alienating the advanced women of either camp."

"Well," said Martin, "the war with its plain lesson of reconciliation was most opportune."

"The lesson," I said, "may be plain to you, but it is not to me: how could war be such a deep-rooted antagonist?"

"Why, simply enough. By enforcing the supremacy of a single obligation, you see, so long as the true relation of the sexes was obscure, Had the vote been won in peace time, it might have remained obscure. But the sudden bestowal of full citizenship in war-time made everything clear as day. Women were now invested with the full rights and obligations of citizenship at the moment when the nature of their obligation was most patent. For young men we saw that obligation take the shape of fighting for their country. For old folk, the supreme sacrifice was similarly ordained: On women of marriageable age the duty obviously devolved to repair the wastage of the war. This is pre-eminently women's war-work. For were it left undone, the war with all its liberating mission, would speedily collapse. A few more years would plunge the world into peace for sheer lack of the fighting material. It is for women to avert such an unpalatable calamity."

"This," I interrupted Martin, "is very interesting. But tell me, do all the women see it in this light? Are they all willing to engage in repairing war-wastage? Some women, surely, don't want to marry and have families?"

"No doubt," said Martin, "but what of that? Some young men don't want to fight. Some old folk don't want to be cremated. But the stern logic of war, with its frightfulness, is not to be denied. Women cannot any more than men escape from the rightful demand of the State upon their services. I don't mind confessing that it has proved uncommonly difficult to drive home the importance of this call upon some women. In fact, at first, it was necessary to walk very delicately in the matter, for fear of forcing the feminist movement into two arms of the No-Maternity Fellowship."

"And now do you proceed?"

"Oh! we took the same sloping, zigzag road which served for getting the soldiers, the aged people, and the workers, by the usual methods of inducement, stimulus, or pressure, we got hold of a good number of militant suffragists and put them on the patriotic appeal job. We placarded the walls with diagrams showing the inadequacy of the present low birth-rate to keep the war going for more than twenty years. Then there was the famous picture of the boy-baby, entitled 'Watch him grow.' In one year he will be the eighteenth of a soldier, in two years—and no fourth. And every wall rang out with the challenging appeal: 'What did you do for no in the Great War?' But the voluntary method was not really a success. We tried, of course, to stiffen up the moral appeal with material inducements, remissions of taxation, and even bonuses on percentage. But the trouble was that the problem of wastage is not entirely one of quantity. Quality also comes in. Now prominent bonuses of percentage were soon discovered to be a process of dysgenic selection, because the fatherhood was of necessity too largely confined to men rejected for military service. In fact, it was the pressure of the eugenists upon this point that gradually forced us into the policy of the Military Service (Females) Act, at present under discussion. But we didn't, of course, jump from voluntary into compulsory service in a single bound."

"I should think not. That would be most un-English. But what was your middle stage?"

"One which at first caused much heart-burning to good Churchmen in particular. It may be summarised by citing the two principal expedients employed. The first was a measure for the facilitation of conditional divorce. 'Ah! I remembered the stir which the Report of the Divorce Commission raised before the war. But I confess it isn't obvious to me how the dissolution of marital unions helps towards solving your problem of raising the birth-rate.' 'No; perhaps not. But I used the term 'conditional divorce.' Now, the main conditions of the new Divorce Act were expressly designed to meet the difficulty you have in mind. In the first place, its operation was confined to cases where existing unions, lasting over a specified period, had not yielded the proper quota required to meet the estimated future needs of the military authority for the maintenance of our fighting forces."

"Still," I interrupted, "I cannot see how mere divorce—"

"No doubt," continued Martin, "it couldn't. But the second condition meets your point, for it restricts divorce to cases where the claimant or claimants produce satisfactory proof of an agreed proposal for re-marriage with a properly certified person of marriageable age and character. This device of divorce is only made absolute by the registration of the certified re-marriage. But though this induced a certain number of patriotic men to put away their ageing wives and to take on younger and more promising substitutes, it could not, of course, go very far towards meeting the requirement. For the essential difficulty lay in wastage itself, that is to say, in the ever-growing gap in the numbers of marriageable men. Indeed, it was not long before military needs seemed to threaten the very institution of monogamy."

"You are most alarming, Martin," I exclaimed. "Surely the influence of the Church, even if it had to make concessions on divorce, was able to resist the degradation of polygamy."

"Why, certainly," replied Martin, "but we have never dodged upon essentials, though some concession had here also to be made. In judging them, however, you must bear in mind that we are living under the Moslem dispensation for the duration of the war."

"Well, what are the concessions?"

"Chiefly two. In the first place, we have been induced to sanction the practice of Concurrent Unions."

"And what may that mean?" I retorted. "Of the old Police Court expression, 'sentences to run concurrently.'"

"Ah! I see you grasp the central meaning."

Though some prefer to use the euphemism Co-operative Households, as presenting a more harmonious idea, well, that is one expedient. Another is the adoption of leasehold or terminable marriages, though this, of course, overlaps with the facilities of divorce. But it was felt right that every marriageable woman should have a chance of serving her country, and that all minor considerations of pre-war custom or morality must yield place to this prime obligation. A most convincing exposition of the whole case was given by Father Compton in his sermon in the Abbey, in which he pointed out how in the patriarchal days both the concurrent union and the terminable marriage were recognised as Divine ordinances, designed to ensure the continuity of the family. (And shall we do less, continued the preacher with an eloquent gesture, for our Fatherland, that larger patriarchy, the State, in whom on earth we live and move and have our being? Is it not the religious duty of the God-fearing men and women to raise families to the glory of the State? It was an exceedingly servicable utterance. For, coming just at the moment when the new amendment for including Short-leave in the Military Service Act was before the country, it silenced all serious criticism."

"But was there no real opposition?"

"I asked, 'to these exceedingly drastic proposals?'"

"Well, there was the so-called 'One Man One Wife' party, but their propaganda was soon suppressed as propaganda, somewhat unfairly, it seemed to me. But the controversy has now died down, and all these expedients so far as they have appeared to 'make good,' are now incorporated in the new Act."

"And what are the main provisions of the Act?"

"Well, it sets up in every district a Tribunal of Women between the ages of forty-eight and sixty-five (the Aged Service limit, as you will remember), and requires them to summon before them all women of marriageable age, not at present occupied in military service, who, when passed by the Advisory Committee of Eugenists, are enrolled in territorial companies to be called up for service as the competent military authority for the district may direct. Time is given to all duly certified women (now, I deemed, to be mothers) to qualify by voluntary contract, but if they fail to qualify within the prescribed period, they come within the compulsory power of the Act."

"A drastic policy, you say. But the country must have soldiers enough to ensure the duration of the war. All private feelings and conveniences, it is felt, must bow before this paramount need. And how otherwise can the need be met? Besides, as historians point out, we cannot have the benefits of war without paying this price. Spartan military economy was based, as you remember, upon preferential rights for her fighting men. Athens, after the catastrophe of Syracuse, had resort to the same expedient; and, to come closer home, its recent adoption both in Germany and Austria compels us to follow suit."

"You mean," I interjected, "that God will send in to the Kaiser the bill for any moral degradation that may ensue?"

"Well," said Martin, "you may put it that way if you like. I should prefer to say that the necessity of State was out all guilty stains, consecrating each special sacrifice of personal feeling. But middle stage?"

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IRISH-AMERICAN WARNING TO IRELAND.

THE UNITY OF THE ALLIES.

The Irish Fellowship Club, the largest Irish organization in Chicago, has adopted a declaration of principles supporting the Irish Parliamentary Party, and stating that any Irishman or organization which seeks to embarrass any of the Allied Powers in its conduct of the war is committing an act of open hostility to the United States. The declaration is addressed to Mr. John Redmond.

It was announced at the same time that the club is forwarding the first instalment of 10,000 dollars (\$2,000) towards the fund which is being collected on behalf of the Irish Parliamentary Party. The declaration will be submitted to all the Irish organizations throughout the country and it will be ultimately forwarded to Ireland.

The declaration says, *inter alia*, "any attempt to make distinctions between the Allies would be futile, foolish, or insincere. Any policy which promises to aid the cause of the Allies, and at the same time singles one out for attack, is self-contradictory. We are therefore compelled to regard any Irishman who at this time tries to embarrass the conduct of the war by any of the European Powers as trying to embarrass America."

"We must tell our Irish brethren at home that they cannot look to America or Irish-America for any sympathy in any such policy. On the contrary, we regard any such policy as an act of open hostility to America, and to us as Americans. There is not a single honest and genuine Irish-American who does not stand behind the President and the policy of the American Government. The Irish people have now to choose between enmity and friendship towards the United States; and, loyal as we have been to the cause of Irish liberty, we must tell the Irish people that we will not, and cannot, retain sympathy for an Ireland that makes war on our beloved country and her sons."

Of course, one can't expect so radical a policy to work quite smoothly. Indeed, among the military biologists a fierce Mendelian controversy is raging at the present time.

"Mendelians!" I exclaimed. "I thought they were absorbed in crossing strains of wheats and peas."

"Well! so they were when you left England. But like every other body of specialists they have been 'taken over' by the Government and set to work at war-expedients. For some time they were innocently occupied in discovering the Mendelian character, which would yield a strain of bomb-proof nerve and another strain of war-truth brain-tissue. By then a little group turned their energies upon sex determination and the dominant and recessive characters involved in it. And then the fat was in the fire for granted that by scientific feeding and judicious Mendelian selection, you could control the proportion of male to female births, what is the desirable proportion in war-time! The problem, it appears, is not a simple one.

PRISONERS FROM RUBLEBEN ARRIVAL IN HOLLAND.

[The following is an instalment of a telegram from The Times Special Correspondent describing the arrival in Holland of a large party of civilian prisoners from Rubleben camp.]

Of the Rubleben internment camp the men spoke very guardedly, bearing in mind the caution given them before they left to say nothing which might rebound on their fellow-citizens still in captivity. They explained that the camp is now practically a self-governing community, whilst the food is that sent out from England. Without this many of them would undoubtedly have succumbed, but with it they raised the envy of the German guards, who, they say, now look very thin and badly fed. Of the bread supplied by the Germans one remarked that it would make very good cricket balls, whilst others declared that they had, transformed their portions into serviceable batons. One of the party, an author, and therefore a competent observer, told me that there had recently been a great change in the German mentality as judged by the officials and soldiers concerned with the administration of the camp. He said:—

"The Germans are beginning to think for themselves. They no longer do and believe everything in a mechanical, un-disputed way dictated from above. The old expressions of hatred towards England are no longer heard. The soldiers themselves are longing only for the end of the war. They do not talk or think about victories, and any way they want to be friends with us again."

Generally speaking, the relations between the interned and their guardians now seem good. When yesterday's party left the camp the gates were thrown open for the first time since Rubleben was established, so that those remaining behind might assemble and cheer their departing comrades whilst the camp commandant and other principal officers came to the railway station to see the men off, and shook hands with those with whom they had been in personal contact.

On the journey from Germany to Holland the travellers were impressed by the deserted aspect of the countryside. They saw very few houses and cattle, and what were in the fields looked in very poor condition. Signs of the suspension of civilian life were also noticed. There was hardly any ordinary railway traffic. For example, on the stretch between Berlin and Hanover, once one of the greatest railway highways of Europe, only two passenger trains were passed or met.

The German Government's Christmas Day present to the Rubleben prisoners consisted of five potatoes each man. Fortunately they were able to supplement this unseasonable gift with a large consignment of which reached them in the Christmas parcels from England.

GERMAN TRICK THAT FAILED.

Interesting as were the experiences of civilians, one could not but hasten to revisit the soldiers now installed on board the liner *Soldiers*, awaiting to-morrow's voyage to England. Here were officers who led their men over the top in the Somme attack on July 1st and then fell wounded in No Man's Land. Here were English, Scottish, and Irish soldiers who held Ypres against tremendous odds. Here was an Indian cavalryman who was wounded long ago at La Bassée, where he helped to bar the road to Calais. Themselves conscious of duty done, they all had thoughts of those comrades still in the struggle and understanding the dangers and suffering they had already safely passed through. "We have done our bit," said one Irishman, "and others are doing theirs now," he quickly added: "They may not know it, but we know that the war is being won, for we know what things are like in Germany."

Several of the men had sad and extraordinary stories to tell of the Italians who were captured in the recent fighting. Great numbers recently arrived at Langenslaaz and other camps. At first, said some of our men who were in the same camps, they were not very heartily welcomed. The Germans showed hatred towards them, whilst some Italians told the French and British quite openly, "We gave it up." Further, they stated that they had been sent by the German among the French and British with the idea of spreading demoralisation among them. Happily quite the contrary effect was really attained. The Italians soon began to see how bitterly they had been misled, whilst later, when our men and the French read how magnificently the Italian army was still holding out, relations greatly improved. "At one camp a large transport of Italians arrived a short time ago," said one of our men who was an eye-witness. "They were in a fearful condition. Most of them got nothing from home. It is only parcels from home which have kept us British alive."

SOAP ONCE MORE!

Apart from this, they testified that things are "bad," but they didn't want to talk about past troubles in detail. Said one Tommy: "It's all over now, and, anyhow, we found it was all right if we kept smiling through it." With their food from England they admitted they were better off than the German prison camp guards. The latter often envied them their good eating. This arrival of parcels proved illuminating to the enemy. "Many a German," said one, "complained to us how wickedly they had been deceived by their Government about the submarine war. 'We are always being told,' they said, 'that England is starving, and yet we see you getting all this splendid food from England.' In this connection there is striking testimony from a neutral journalist who saw our men arrive, namely the correspondent of the *Tel-gram*, who writes:

(Continued at foot of next Column.)

THE MILITARY SITUATION. A SURE BASIS OF PEACE.

[FROM "THE MORNING POST'S" MILITARY CORRESPONDENT.]

The question of devising a sure basis for the establishment of a durable peace is at present a fertile subject of discussion, and the variety of ideas which have been expressed are little short of bewildering. According to Mr. Henderson, it is in no way a military question. A Peace Conference must take no cognisance of military matters, such as the acquisition of strategic frontiers. We must beg to differ from him, if for no other reason because every treaty of peace in the past has been largely based on military considerations, and because such considerations are at the base of the German projects for peace. To give only one example, Prussia, at the Peace of Prague, imposed frontiers on Italy of which Italy has experienced the disadvantages in the present war; and the present aims of Germany are being made plain enough by the discussions at Brest-Litovsk.

The German aim, as we have already shown, is to establish strategic frontiers which would make Germany so strong that no Power, or group of Powers, would venture to think of going to war with her, however great the provocation; or which, in case of war, would give her a decisive advantage. Peace would be assured by German predominance. It would be enforced, if necessary, by the German Army.

The Allies, on the other hand, hope to abolish war, or, at least, to restrict it within narrow limits. Those who talk of a "Democratic Peace" seem to imagine that democracies will not want to fight, and that they will respect treaties. One may doubt the expediency of risking the independence of nations by founding it on such speculative ideas. Democracies have not hesitated to fight in the past when their vital interests have been threatened, and we have yet to learn on what evidence it is assumed that they will be more strict in the observance of treaties than other forms of government. Organised Labour, which may be presumed to typify a democratic State, has not always considered itself bound by agreements, and one of the first acts of democratic Russia has been to repudiate solemn treaty obligations. The answer is, presumably, that circumstances have changed; but in this world, circumstances are continually changing. The plea is precisely that which Germany urged in justification for the invasion of Belgium, the independence which she had guaranteed.

Mr. Lloyd George hopes that the conditions of peace will be so equitable that no nation will desire to alter them, and that thus the millennium will be achieved. Unfortunately, this high ideal is already being jeopardised by the course of events in Russia. There is reason to fear that the peace which Germany is endeavouring to impose will contain the germs of future war. Is it to be supposed that Russia will not, sooner or later, wake up, to find that the Bolsheviks have delivered her into the hands of Germany, and that she will not attempt to struggle for freedom?

Then we have the League of Nations, which is to substitute Law for Force by means of "compulsory" arbitration, an international legislature, and an international police. It is clear that war will not necessarily be abolished, but it is hoped that it may be restricted within narrow limits; that is, between fractions, or groups, of the international police. The international police, if they are to exist in more than name, will be armies, limited in size by treaty, as well as by other agreements. It is hard to see how security will be obtained against combinations between groups of Powers, say between those which now constitute the Quadruple Alliance—for the achievement of a common aim; and the group which is most successful in intrigue (after the fashion of Germany) will start with an advantage.

The limitation of armaments is clearly an essential factor in such a system, as the *Westminster Gazette* perceives when it suggests, as a guarantee, the "honest, thorough, and mutual system of inspection which can alone protect them (the nations) from re-armament." It would be interesting to see the suggestion worked out in detail. It is not irrelevant to recall that "Prussian Militarism" had its origin in the limitation of the Prussian Army to a strength of 40,000 after 1871. The foundations of the "Nation in arms" were laid under the eyes of Napoleon, and escaped his vigilance. A few years later Prussia took the field with 140,000 men, independent of garrisons. Clearly the inspections would have to be frequent, and very thorough; for Germany, with the facilities and experience she possesses, could in a short time train an army which would severely test the efficiency of the international police. It would need prompt military—or "police"—action to frustrate such an attempt before it became dangerous. The strategic aspect of the frontiers, which Mr. Henderson waves aside as immaterial, would be a very important factor in the operations.

"Notwithstanding their wounds these British soldiers looked very well indeed, and, thanks to parcels they had received from England, there was no sign of the underfeeding we often notice among German deserters who come to our country."

Another little sidelight on the state of affairs in Germany was that, when on the 21st, the German Government announced that such a thing as soap was still being manufactured seemed to be a joyful discovery. First, a cigarette, and then every man physically able to do so seized a cake of this rare substance, and was soon revelling in soap-baths. By midday all the soldiers and civilians were safely on board the three steamers, *Sindora*, *Königin Regentes*, and *Zeeland*, which this afternoon moved down the waterway to the Hook of Holland in readiness for to-morrow's daylight passage across the North Sea.

BEATING THE GERMANS. SOME FACTORS IGNORED.

We are indebted to a correspondent for a very lucid exposition of certain questions which, as he observes, are being asked by a large and increasing number of people who believe that the Allied Armies on the Western front have what may be described as a decisive numerical preponderance over the Germans, and that they are superior to the latter in artillery, in flying services, and in organization behind the lines (wrote the military correspondent of the *Morning Post* on December 17th). Why, asks the man in the street, have we not done better with all these advantages? Why do the Allies always attack, singly at one point instead of simultaneously at several points? Why were not the Germans prevented from sending troops from other parts of the front to Cambrai by the application of pressure at numerous points? Why do we not attack on wider fronts?

In short, the man in the street thinks that the Allied Armies in France may not have made the most of their superiority, and he wants to know the reasons. In answering him, he is accustomed to see the stronger side win. Why not in war? Is it that the operations have been badly conducted, and that the Chief Command and the General Staff are to blame? He has noticed such incidents as the glossing over or suppression of unpleasant episodes and delay in publishing certain despatches with the object, as appeared to him, of being able to counter bad news with good. In consequence he is inclined to be suspicious and distrustful when things do not go so well as he expected.

It is obvious that the questions are not of a kind admitting of free and open discussion. It may be asserted with confidence that the Allied Commanders have done well with the resources at their command; in some cases better than the present writer, for one, thought probable. Those who have not known and studied war are too apt to judge of operations by their issue, not knowing the multiplicity of conditions on which success or failure depends, conditions which are often beyond human power to control or human foresight to provide against. The unprecedented rainfall of August upset the design of the Flanders offensive, caused an unforeseen expenditure of resources, and enabled the enemy to risk the Italian adventure, which, if we had been able to follow up our first successes as promptly as might reasonably have been expected, he would not have dared to do. Instances might be multiplied. Such is the fortune of war.

MAN-POWER.

Apart from this uncertain factor of luck, the whole question, regarded by the man in the street, turns chiefly on the question of numerical superiority, which, for obvious reasons, cannot be discussed in detail. One can only suggest a few matters for reflection. It has been pointed out, often enough during the past two years that the forces in France have been too evenly balanced to admit of a decision being forced. Our Governments have never summoned the courage to require the national resources to give ground, and have taken advantage of the circumstance to devise their flexible system of defence. If pushed back a few miles the system is not seriously endangered. We, on the other hand, have to maintain our lines solid. They can garish their lines with fewer troops than we can on the defensive part of the front, i.e., in every part which is not actually being attacked. Thus an appreciable part of our numerical superiority is absorbed. Against the Germans have better facilities for moving reserves to threatened points, which enable them to effect a further economy of force. For instance, they had at least three separate and fairly direct lines of railway by which to transport troops from Flanders to Cambrai. Few parts of the Western front can be found where the Allies are equalled in this respect.

When all these things are considered a reason other than ineptitude may be conjectured for the restriction of our offensive operations. In these days, more than ever before, it is necessary to form for the attack in great depth. To sacrifice depth to breadth of front, desirable though the latter be, would be to court failure. Instances are not wanting in which promising attacks have languished for want of reserves. The same consideration applies to the question of "holding attacks" to prevent the enemy from reinforcing one part of his line by withdrawing troops from another part. Such attacks to be of any avail must be made in force, or they are simply ignored. In these days each side knows pretty well the distribution of the adversary's troops behind the lines.

THE HINDENBURG RETREAT.

The design of operations for this year was upset by other circumstances besides the collapse of Russia. At the time of the Hindenburg retreat it was the fashion to pretend that, far from embarrassing the Allies, it was actually a triumph. So, in a way, it was, for it was the result of the victory in the Somme. But there is another side to the question. One-eyed optimism of this kind has its drawbacks, for it is apt to give rise to doubts and disappointment such as are afflicting the man in the street. The retreat forestalled such a combined offensive by the French and British Armies on contiguous fronts as appeals to others besides him. To have followed up the German and attempted

(Continued at foot of next Column.)

THE DANGER OF A PURELY MATERIAL EDUCATION.

SIR J. MCCLURE ON THE NATION'S NEEDS.

The sixth annual Conference of Educational Associations, was opened at University College on January 2nd, by a general gathering of the Associations, over which Sir Gregory Foster, Provost of University College, presided, and at which the opening address was delivered by Sir John D. McClure, headmaster of Mill Hill School.

Sir Gregory Foster said the future lay with the teachers, and the teachers must close their ranks if they wished to prevent a united front against the great danger that best education at this time, when one read in the newspapers appeals for the reconstruction of education on purely material grounds. The controversy between classicists and scientists was, in his opinion, a perfectly senseless one, and the appeal he would make was that this year educationists should set to work upon a constructive campaign which would set at rest, at all events for a time, what was a purely artificial conflict. (Hear, hear.) They should set to work on not one curriculum but a series of curricula that would combine the various things that were necessary to train good citizens. We started in the world from very varying capacities, and our education must meet these capacities and develop them.

Sir John McClure, in the course of his address, said 1917 had been a veritable *annus mirabilis* in the history of English education. Hitherto the claims of vested interests, the exigencies of party government, and, above all, the murderous tenacity of individual rights, had proved well-nigh insuperable obstacles in the path of true educational reform. The past year had witnessed changes whose magnitude we were not yet incapable of realising. Never before had the expenditure on education been so great, never before had activity in educational matters been so general and purposeful, never before had the nation shown such interest in the establishment of a real educational system, never before had a great educational measure been introduced by a man who was first and foremost a statesman, and, most significant of all, never before had a Ministry been so universally blamed for its delay in proceeding with such a Bill.

NOT ENOUGH COMPULSION.

Much had been said about the educational ladder. His own painful experience convinced him that the educational sieve was at least equally necessary, though not equally popular. Rigidly enforced compulsory schools had been established. That this and similar measures had failed was largely due to the fact that the State had been content to provide facilities, but had refrained from exercising that degree of compulsion which alone could ensure that they would be used by those for whose benefit they were created. The system which compelled a child to attend school until he was fourteen, and then left him to his own devices, could do little to create a desire to satisfy the thirst for knowledge. During the most critical years of his life, fourteen to eighteen, he was left without guidance, discipline, ideals, often without even a desire to remember or use the little he knew. Out of the three millions of the population between fourteen and eighteen years of age, two millions were practically lost to the nation, and, as a result, the year there was an appalling waste of good human material, and thousands of whom nature intended to be captains of industry were, in consequence of untrained capacity, relegated to the ranks or became hewers of wood and drawers of water. There was a real danger lest zeal for education should spend itself on problems of organisation and curricula, forgetful of the greater issues which lie beyond. The danger was that organisation should outrun foresight and intelligence. On the whole the results of leaving things to voluntary effort had not been unsatisfactory yet we were so far from believing that national efficiency was to be obtained by individual liberty that there was a real danger of regarding the two as essentially antagonistic and irreconcilable. But though it was freely admitted that some check on aggressive individualism was imperatively necessary, and that State direction and control were to some extent inevitable, few would care to see the voluntary system wholly abandoned. Not a few of our countrymen viewed with grave concern the marked increase in the power and authority of the State. He did not believe any one British Government could stamp out voluntary effort. It wished to do so, but a succession of Governments could do it. How was the danger to be met? It could be met by increased co-operation of local authority, by the encouragement and equitable treatment of voluntary effort, and chiefly by a strong, united, and self-governing teaching profession. (Hear, hear.) Sir J. McClure went on to refer to the call for educational reform based solely on the material ground of meeting the great industrial competition after the war. Ruskin spoke of a nation degenerating into a mob, but the worst mob it could become was a money-making mob. How were they to defeat this foul conspiracy against the peace of the world and the welfare of mankind? By realising that it was but a short-sighted and selfish patriotism that ends with love of country and service for her; by fixing the aims of education above many and beyond the nation. Matthew Arnold's charge against the mass of the nation, that they did not care for things of the mind, was not only true but was likely to continue true unless the teachers altered things in their own favour.

A modification of the original design, involving the construction of communications and all the paraphernalia of a great offensive, would have entailed vast delay. As the present writer observed at the time, the better course was taken by utilizing existing arrangements, the British concentrating towards Arras and the French towards the Chemin des Dames. The Germans were thus harried without much loss of time, but the Allied Armies drifted apart. Ultimately we became entangled in the bog of Flanders, but that was misfortune rather than miscalculation.

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T. NAGAO, General Manager.

[1623]

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Copy of conditions on which Mr. Henderson's advice is given can be obtained from the MANAGER OF THIS PAPER. [1006]

NOTICES TO CONSIGNEES

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NOTICE TO CONSIGNEES.

FROM SEATTLE.

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Claims against the steamer must be presented within 10 days of arrival, otherwise they will not be recognised.

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Bills of Lading will be countersigned by JARDINE, MATHESON & Co., Ltd., Agents, Hongkong, 25th February, 1919. [1625]

NOTICE TO CONSIGNEES.

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[1617-1]

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